

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1 – 9 and 27 – 40 were pending. In the Office action, claims 35 – 40 were allowed, claims 1 – 9, 27 and 30 – 34 were finally rejected, and claims 28 and 29 were objected to. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 28 and 29, and cancelled claims 1 – 9, 27, and 30 – 34, leaving claims 35 – 40 unchanged. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, and 7 – 9 stand rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,957,350 (“Giles”). Claims 1, 2, and 7 – 9 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are now moot.

Claims 1, 3, and 5 – 6 stand rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,997,332 (“Johnson”). Claims 1, 3, and 5 – 6 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are now moot.

Claims 27 and 30 – 34 stand rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 3,402,904 (“Paraskewik”). Claims 27 and 30 – 34 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are now moot.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson. Claims 4 and 6 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are now moot.

II. Claim Objections

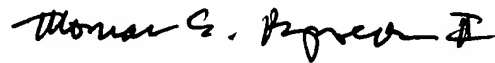
Claims 28 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that claims 28 and 29 would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Page 8 of pending action.)

Claims 28 and 29 have been amended to include all limitations recited in base claim 27. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 28 and 29.

III. Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 28, 29, and 35 – 40. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,



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